

NOTE

Ormyrus salmanticus Nieves-Aldrey, 1984 (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Ormyridae), a Valid Species

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Ormyrus salmanticus Nieves-Aldrey was described in 1984 from Casillas de Flores, Salamanca (Spain), reared from galls of *Aulacidea subterminalis* Niblett, 1946, a herb gall wasp (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae, Aylacini) that induces semi-subterranean galls in runners of *Hieracium pilosella* L. (Asteraceae). This species is easily distinguished from other Iberian ormyrid species by several important diagnostic characters, as follows: second metasomal tergite smooth dorsally and with weak crenulate sculpture of tergites 3–7, lacking the typical rows of deep foveae of many Ormyridae; head only slightly broader than high in anterior and posterior views; post-marginal vein relatively long, 1.6 times as long as stigmal vein; metatibia as long as metatarsus.

Narendran (1999) published a systematic monograph on the Indo-Australian Ormyridae and stated that *O. salmanticus* is a junior synonym of *Ormyrus langlandi* Girault, 1920, a decision that has been subsequently accepted by other authors (Noyes 2002). Narendran did not examine the type material of *O. salmanticus* that is available at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid. However, the author said that “from the description and figures of *Ormyrus salmanticus* Aldrey (Aldrey, 1984) (*sic*), described from Spain, it is evident that it is a new junior syn-

onym of *Ormyrus langlandi* Girault”.

In spite of its superficial resemblance, on the basis of the original description and figures of *O. salmanticus*, there are however many morphological features of this species that do not fit the description given by Narendran of *Ormyrus langlandi*. The specific biology of *O. salmanticus* and its more restricted geographical distribution compared with *O. langlandi* (the former recorded only from Spain, although probably much widely distributed in Europe, and the host gall and plant distribution do not overlap the range of *O. langlandi*), were also additional data that cast doubts on the validity of this synonymization. To demonstrate it, we borrowed 16 specimens of *O. langlandi* housed at the NHM of London and compared them with *O. salmanticus*.

Examined specimens came from Zimbabwe (former Rhodesia) labelled as *O. decaryi* Risbec, 1955, a species synonymized with *O. langlandi* by Bouček (1988). We tried to examine first Girault's *O. langlandi* material from the QLD museum but unfortunately we did not receive any replies to our letters.

Comparison of series of specimens of the two supposedly conspecific species showed important morphological differences between them and thus clearly indicated their separate specific status.

Considering the evidence provided above we propose the re-establishment of *O. salmanticus* Nieves-Aldrey as a valid species, *stat. res.*

Table 1. Major morphological differences between *O. langlandi* and *O. salmanticus*.

Diagnostic characters	<i>O. salmanticus</i> 1 male, 3 females examined	<i>O. langlandi</i> 6 males, 10 females examined
Female antenna	Two anelli but the second anellus bears a single placodeal sensilla and is 1.3 times as long as wide; flagellar segments 2 to 5 clearly transverse, about 1.4 times as wide as long. Placodeal sensillae of flagellar segments arranged in a single row.	Two anelli; second anellus transverse, about 2 times as wide as long; flagellar segments 2 to 5 clearly longer than wide, about 1.3 times as long as wide. Placodeal sensillae of flagellar segments arranged in two rows.
Male antenna	Flagellar segments transverse. Placodeal sensillae arranged in a single row.	Flagellar segments longer than wide. Placodeal sensillae smaller, arranged in four or five rows.
Forewing	Postmarginal vein relatively longer; marginal vein 1.2 times as long as postmarginal; postmarginal vein 3.2 times as long as stigmal vein.	Postmarginal vein relatively much shorter; marginal vein 3.5 times as long as postmarginal; postmarginal vein 1.6 times as long as stigmal vein.
Metasoma	Sculpture on dorsal part of second metasomal tergite of female absent; tergite completely smooth.	Dorsal part of second metasomal tergite of female with strong reticulate sculpture.
Biology and distribution	A parasitoid of <i>Aulacidea subterminalis</i> Niblett that induces galls in runners of <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> L. Recorded only from Salamanca and Zaragoza (Spain) but probably much more widely distributed following its host gall wasp and plant.	Biology unknown. Recorded from Australia, India, Laos, China, Zimbabwe and Madagascar.

LITERATURE CITED

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